

THE BULLETIN OF JSA

THE JAPAN SCIENTISTS' ASSOCIATION

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ON-THE-SPOT REPORT FROM THE SCENE OF THE EAST JAPAN EARTHQUAKE DISASTER

Dr. Karita is working for a care facility for the elderly at Watari Town, Miyagi after resignation from university. He kindly sent an on-the-spot report concerning what happened at the town.

The town is located 30 km south from Sendai City, lying 10 km east-west and 12 km north-south, with 35,000 population. It is a farm town, known for strawberry apart from rice. Sendai East Highway penetrates the town north and south, the eastern area faces the Pacific Ocean, which has undergone catastrophic damages by the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami. The town is in ruins. The status is in the same status as that of Rikuzen-Takada, Iwate, and Minami-Sanriku, Miyagi covered in TV. As of May 224 death and about 100 missing people were reported, and evacuees amount about 2000 people. Sea water covered a half of rice paddies, and washed out a half of strawberry houses. Since the facility I am working is west from the highway, few damages of buildings and equipments were caused, none of 70 residents felt their lives in danger. But two of day users were killed by tsunami. At the center of the town electricity broke down up to 4 days after, telephone call was recovered 10 day after, but water supply was cut off until 15 days after. The staff needs to wait in a line for more than 2 hours to secure gas necessary to go to the facility. Lifeline is not restored even a month later. During the initial phase I used taxi to secure heating oil and foodstuff. To dispose of bodily wastes of the lavatory I used water of the facility's well. It is not suitable for drinking, so I must have a one of staff's favor to use his well. Most problematic was a shortage of manpower. The staff mostly must have stayed overnight at the facility because there is no way to get gas for commute. A lot of them lost their family members and houses.

Today the town set up as shelters five undamaged schools lying west from the highway. Most of medical institutions were safe on the same score, while three clinics on the opposite side were closed.

I wonder how Watari Town can be reconstructed. As the town is located at the seaside and flat without upland, it is too difficult to prepare facilities that lifeguard for sure inhabitants in case of tsunami like this time. I wonder also if it is better for people to continue to reside at such seaside area.

When I asked people about the future, they glared at me only to say "It now makes a sense for us to live in what way". I still thought that town people themselves need to establish a town-building schedule with long-term ideals.

ACTIVITIES OF RESEARCH COMMITTEES AND GROUPS

The JSA headquarters organizes a number of research committees and groups undertaken on a nationwide scale, which are encouraging the members across the country

THE 31ST SETO-UCHI SYMPOSIUM HELD

On March 19-20, 2011 the symposium was held by the committee of Seto-Uchi and the 32nd Seto-Uchi Coastal Residents Gathering at the same instance at Tokushima University. The symposium was organized with the theme "Revitalization of local society and leaders".

The symposium aimed to recognize the actual status of the local society in Seto-Uchi region and more substantially register Yoshino River estuary on a wetland under the Ramsar Convention. 75 participants including citizens discussed the following problems relating to Seto-Uchi: (a) mudflat, marine forest; (b) marine wildlife; (c) submarine waste; (d) behavior of tourists; (e) investigation and report about the practice status of birds; (f) dams and garbage dump; (g) sustainable fishing village; (h) support of homeless people; (i) struggle of asbestos victims at Sennan, Osaka; (j) waste on the Sikoku pilgrimage road. Apprehension of the actual state, finding for a solution, and practical activities of NPO were explained therein.

The committee is expecting this symposium and gathering will develop to revitalize societies in the Seto-Uchi region, in particular to offer directions and measures to enhance the regional nature and culture.

DISTRICTS' AND BRANCHES' ACTIVITIES

The JSA consists of 47 branches which are grouped into 9 districts, and they are independently and/or cooperatively carrying out their activities in addition to the headquarters' ones

1) "Facing a crisis of academic continuation" held

On March 13 the symposium with the above title was held by JSA Tokai district (Shizuoka, Aichi, Gifu, Mie Prefectures). Before the discussion they offered up a silent prayer for the victims of the East Japan Earthquake Disaster and made a contribution to them.

Firstly Dr. Homma made a keynote speech "To develop Japanese academic pursuits". The selectivity policy in private and regional-national universities is against the background of the change of human resource development policy of the government and private companies, which aims to bring up top universities attracting excellent abroad students. To settle such problem in the globalization we overcome new-liberalism, he says. In his speech "University administration in the limited higher education budget" second keynote speaker Prof. Nakajima pointed out that the Democratic Party employs university policy opposite to the manifest and criticized university officials cooperating with public comments lead by Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology without essentially criticizing governmental university policy and being intent on surviving with the central focusing on national universities.

Prof. Nonaka addressed on some issues related to private universities, stressing that university policy centered on national university widens the gap between private and national universities and moreover the executive gap between large-scale universities in big cities and middle and small-scale ones in local regions in which more violent restructuring than in private companies is conducted. She claimed university officials cooperatively should take action to eliminate the discrepancies among universities above all in the sense to guarantee students' rights.

Some opinions were advanced by faculties and young researchers. Prof. Ishii claimed faculties should practice their voice as intellectuals against worsening crisis of academic continuation due to mob rule. Prof. Nozaki explained the actual status of Mie University after institutionalization. Advertizing in promotion compromising in the governmental policy, the Principal absolutely made a reformation to accelerate the contortion. Prof. Kondo explained the actual status of Gifu University, seven years after institutionalization such as curtailment of research funds, worsening educational conditions and labor circumstances, destruction of academic freedom and autonomy due to nondemocratic election system of university president. Dr. Oishi talked that young researchers are discouraged seeing the reality that they are obliged to work as term-based employee like postdoctoral fellow.

In the panel discussion one of participants said that he has been awake to narrow outlook of national university faculties and that self-preserving behavior in national university could not gain people's support in circumstances of discrepancies. Another presented his impression that neo-liberalistic university management based on the logic of competition and selectivity commonly is recognized to have hampered continuation and development of academic research.

2) 15TH ARTICLE 9 FORUM HELD

On December 11, 2010 at Tsurumi University Hall the Kanagawa branch and Article 9 Scientists Society in Kanagawa held a lecture meeting inviting Dr. Kou (Waseda Univ.) as a lecturer. He claimed, based on the fact concerning the relationship between Japan and the Korean Peninsula in modern history, that Japanese sense of human rights now is called in question so as to realize true peace. As for North Korea he insisted that the abduction question is not the premise for diplomatic normalization negotiations but it is significant to promote normalization even in order to settle the question. To realize peace in East Asia withdrawal from the Japan-US Security Treaty is of importance. Japan-Korea Annexation Treaty and the US-Japan Security Treaty have a similar property as subordinate treaty viewing their keywords, disposition, permission, and acceptance. He claimed Japanese constitution should be developed from peaceful to human rights constitution.

The forum was organized as a study meeting proper for the occasion of Japanese government's discrimination of Chousen-Gakkou (Korean school) and acceptance of history textbooks beautify the war on the pretext of North Korean bombardment toward Japan.

3) DAMN DAM IN FUKUOKA

The following is due to the report of a branch member Tsutakawa "Excessive water resources development". During the high growth period (from 1960 to early in 1970's) disputes over water were observed all over the country and excessive water development plans were formulated. In 1961 Water Resources Development Promotion Act and Water Resources Development Public Corporation were established, thereafter current plans have been set. In 1973 Shimouke and Matsubara dams were accomplished to construct, while the Japanese growth period has finished according to first oil crisis. Since then demand for industrial water rapidly has been reduced, domestic non-commercial water has not so demanded as in the past.

In 1974 Irahara dam construction reached a stage of investigation. The aim of this dam is to specify Chikuhou district, which diminishes in population because of the closure of coal mine, as district increasingly demands water. But the present aim completely changed.

Dam projects after 1970's aim to acquire unspecified water supply laying weight on measure against abnormal water shortage and flood control, though water demand slows down. Fukuoka Prefecture, in the wake of 1978 abnormal drought in Northern Kyushu, lays weight on dam construction under the pretext of the security of water supply, and the necessity of flood control and unspecified water. Fukuoka abnormal drought was a tailwind for Dam builders, and they started to wage a campaign "Water shortage comes from dam shortage" under the banner of abnormal drought measure. Along this stream useless Gokayama and Irahara dams were commenced to construct and opposed the revision.

4) WORLD FOOD CRISIS AND JAPANESE FOOD PROBLEMS

The Shiga branch held a civic seminar entitled above on December 11 inviting Prof. Abe (Gifu Univ.) as a lecturer. The lecturer had published an article of the same title in The Journal of Japanese Scientists NIHON NO KAGAKUSYA (in Japanese) vol.45 No.9 (2010).

He explained about the food problems of today based on his views showing a lot of data including the most up-to-date data since the publication. The food problems were not only the simple supply and demand theory that the shortage of foods caused the food problems (or consumers' problems) and the overproduction caused the agriculture problems (or producers' problems). But the problems were ones

that were directly related to our right to live like an actual example of rice riot in old days, and were needed to confront based on the political and economical views

The world economical and political system that US had taken the initiative was put in an unsettled state by the first world food crisis in early 1970s. This provided an opportunity for major multinational grain firms to develop the global business. The US agricultural policy was transformed from production control to production increase. These facts led to the various problems until today. While US, UK and France developed a tendency to increase production, only Japan took the way to reduce production.

This led to the present situation that Japan had to depend on the import of crops from US. However the situation of agriculture in US was that US agricultural prices were higher than the international ones and the balance was subsidized by the US Government. What did US intend to do that for? US had developed a global strategy to control food life of other countries with agricultural products as important strategic goods and to keep political effects. Consequently, the rise in international prices brought advantages to US to reduce the financial burden. Finally it was clearly understood through the lecture that Japanese agriculture was strongly affected by US and also politically by the Japan-US Security Treaty in the background.

Today, concerning to the Japanese food problems there is another issue of TTP (Trans Pacific Partnership). It is needed to have an opportunity to discuss such an important issue widely, to publish the results in the JSA's Journal and to seek the way to appeal widely.

5) CIVIC LECTURE ON FUKUSHIMA NUCLEAR PLANT ACCIDENT IN KYOTO

The Kyoto branch held an urgent civic lecture titled "The accident of the Fukushima nuclear power plant; danger of nuclear power plants and collapse of the safety myth" on March 19, 2011 with about 230 participants. The lecturers were Dr. Fukao (The research committee of energy and nuclear power problems) and Dr. Miyake (Kyoto Jyonan Clinic). Dr. Fukao emphasized that a nuclear plant is essentially dangerous. He mentioned that in thermal power plants the fuel is supplied whenever necessary and the plant operation can be stopped safely with no fuel supply. On the other hand nuclear power plants store the nuclear fuel for several years and after the nuclear fission reaction is stopped, the large amount of radioactive substance in the reactor emits the decay heat. There is no way to keep the reactor safe without continuous cooling. Present accident of the Fukushima nuclear power plant was caused by the loss of the cooling function. Dr. Miyake explained that there is no safety level like threshold level for the radioactive damage. The carcinogenic risk increases proportionally to the intensity of radioactive exposure. As a result even small amount of radioactive substance leaking out by the accident is not safe essentially. By the lectures it is clear that the techniques of nuclear power plants have essential risk. At several weeks after the accident the cooling function does not recover even now. It is presumed that the nuclear fuel melting is advancing and the radioactive substance is still leaking out. The goal which settles the situation is not in sight, the inhabitant near makes evacuation unavoidable and has been forced harsh life. The safety myth of the nuclear plant collapsed completely.

6) URGENT SYMPOSIUM ON FUKUSHIMA NUCLEAR PLANT ACCIDENT IN TOKYO

The Tokyo branch held an urgent symposium on April 2, 2011. Over 160 persons attended the symposium. At first Dr. Osada (Secretary general Tokyo branch) reported that what do JSA and JSA members do against the Higashinohon huge earthquake disaster and the severe accident of the Fukushima nuclear power plant? He explained the detail of the safety myth's birth and he pointed out importance of the self development of technology that is the standpoint to develop the technique to be responsible for the people. To protect the right of workers and to struggle for the right make the construction of safety and reliable technology possible.

Dr. Tateno (Former Prof. Chuo Univ.) explained the severe circumstance of the Fukushima nuclear power plant accident by the loss of power supply for cooling, using illustration of the boiling water reactor. He criticized Tokyo Electric Company that has not performed the measure to protect the power supply

against large tsunamis. He also pointed out that it takes long time and large cost to recover the accident.

Dr. Ikegami (Emeritus Prof. Otsuma Woman's Univ.) reported the radioactive contamination of water and food and its measure. She pointed out that the Japanese food and drink intake restriction standard is not severe compared with the standard of Europe and U.S. She also explained the effect of radioactive substance on body and the removal effect by cooking methods, emphasizing that it is important to watch the actual circumstance continuously and to gather the information and to bring up decision power not to be confused by the pollution information. Dr. Yatsukuri reported the telecommunication as infrastructure at the disaster. He also explained the damage of communication system and recovering circumstance and the function of communication network strengthened by learning the lesson from the past disasters.

JSA^{NOW}

Briefings from organizers

HEADQUARTERS

- 1) On July 2 at Meiji Park, Tokyo the society and other friendly groups organized an emergence gathering as a cooperative action for seeking nuclear power plant zero.
- 2) The committee for science and technological policy organized a symposium "The future of science, technology and academic policy and energy policy" on July 16 at Bunkyo Kumin Center, Tokyo, where the following three lectures were given. (a) Prof. Akashi (Komazawa Univ.): "Seeking for reconsidering the new growth strategy and the vision of industrial structure – With the focus on examination of green innovation"; (b) Prof. Kuroki (Sophia Univ.): "University evaluation system and coming higher education policy"; (c) Mr. Sagawa (graduate student, Univ. of Tokyo): "Possibility of recyclable energy and science and technology policy".

KINKI DISTRICT

- 1) On June 24 Miao Trial Support Group (Dr. Miao died from overwork at Tanabe Seiyaku Co.) held third assembly at Temma, Osaka.
- 2) The study group of labor science held a study meeting with the theme "employee assistance program" on June 25 at Shijo Center of Bukkyo University, Kyoto, where Prof. Mito and Prof. Shimizu lectured.
- 3) The 23rd Kansai Peace Study Meeting was held on July 16 at Campus Plaza Kyoto, Kyoto, where four reports on radioactive contamination caused at Fukushima nuclear plant were presented. (a) Dr. Hukao (Shizuoka Univ., ret.): "The Fukushima nuclear plant accident and future energy policy"; (b) Dr. Iwamoto (Kyoto Univ. Research Reactor Inst., ret.): "Air diffusion of radioactivity – SPEEDI was not speedy"; (c) Mr. Watanabe (Japan Lawyers Association of Freedom): "Coming compensation"; (d) Prof. Fujita (Titsumeikan Univ.): "Irenological meaning of the severe accident of nuclear plant".

AOMORI BRANCH

Hachinohe chapter held a symposium of nuclear power problem "Learning from the disaster – Safety of nuclear plants located in Aomori Prefecture". Four lectures were given. (a) Prof. Osanai (biologist): "Radial ray and living organism"; (b) Prof. Kawachi: "Nuclear plants, nuclear fuel and citizen's movement"; (c) Prof. Matsuyama (geologist): "Fault in the vicinity of nuclear facilities in Aomori"; (d) Prof. Moro (seismic technology, Hachinohe Inst. Tech.): "Problematic points of the seismic design of nuclear facilities".

MIYAGI BRANCH

The branch held a branch lecture on July 30 at Tohoku University. Prof. Tsunashima delivered a lecture on fishery special ward and "Team Dragon" (Ministry Matsumoto's word for recovery squad)

TOCHIGI BRANCH

Saitama branch

On July 9 the branch organized a field work "Tour to appreciate literature and store rooms of Tochigi, mercantile city in north Kanto".

TOKYO BRANCH

- 1) The 7th Machida science forum was organized on July 27, where Prof. Hatayama gave a lecture on Chernobyl accident.
- 2) The 91st new peace colloquium was held on July 29 at Bunkyo Kumin Center, Tokyo, where Prof. Kaneko (Rissho Univ.) gave a lecture on the reconstruction after the East Japan Great Earthquake Disaster and the Japanese Constitution.

ISHIKAWA BRANCH

The branch emergently organized a civic lecture "The great earthquake and nuclear plants – Learning from the severe accident of Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant" on July 8 in Kanazawa, where Dr. Tateishi (Emeritus Prof., Niigata Univ.) delivered a lecture on the current status with his investigation experience in nuclear plants.

KYOTO BRANCH

- 1) The branch held a symposium entitled "Bikini incidence and the actual status of the Fukushima nuclear power plant accident – Low level inner exposure to radiation" on July 3 at Avanti Kyoto Hall, where Prof. Takahashi and Mr. Yamashita made a speech about the current situations.
- 2) On July 23 at the branch office the special committee of nuclear power plant problem held a study meeting. Three lectures were given. (a) Dr. Fukao: "The actual state of Fukushima nuclear power plant"; (b) Dr. Sokawa: "Health hazard caused by radioactive exposure"; (c) Prof. Takehama: "Shift to natural energy".

OSAKA BRANCH

- 1) The study group of "Capitalism" held a regular meeting on June 20 at the branch office. Mr. Matsuoka reported on the contents in sections 4 and 5 of chapter 12.
- 2) On June 23 the study group Contemporary Capitalism held a regular meeting at the branch office inviting Dr. Manabe who gave a lecture on the great earthquake disaster and compensation in Japanese capitalism.
- 3) Science café was held on June 24 at Osaka University. 1st part: Discussion about the nuclear power plant accident and responsibility of scientists among teachers and students. 2nd part: Discussion about what to do against the disaster among students of Fukushima University and Osaka University and teachers.
- 4) The 30th Kita-Temma science café took place on June 25 to listen to Prof. Niki's lecture "regeneration medicine recognized from cells".
- 5) The study committee of philosophy held a regular meeting on June 29 at the branch office, where Dr. Morozumi lectured on actual contradiction and logical one.
- 6) On July 3 at the branch office Kansai group of technicians and researchers held a regular meeting, where Dr. Nakamura gave a lecture on small hydropower energy.
- 7) The 31st Kita-Temma science café was held on June 25. Prof. Mochizuki gave a lecture "Twilight café – Descartes' universe".
- 8) The study group Contemporary Capitalism held a regular meeting on July 21, where Prof. Yasuki (Osaka Intl. Univ.) lectured on the energy issue between Japan and Russia.
- 9) The 4th Suita science café was held on July 23 in Suita City, where Prof. Horikoshi (Shiga Univ.) gave a lecture on fermentation in Sushi of crucian carp.

10) The study group of "Capitalism" held a regular meeting on July 25, where Mr. Hiraishi and Mr. Matsuoka explained some part of chapter 13.

11) The 5th Suita science café was held on August 6 inviting Ms. Okamoto to give a lecture on science of scent.

HYOGO BRANCH

The branch held a regular meeting entitled "Collapse of safety myth for nuclear power plant and shift to natural energy" on July 9 at Sannomiya, Kobe. Dr. Fukao delivered a lecture "What happened Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant?", and Prof. Goto "The actual status of radioactive contamination in Fukushima".

HIROSHIMA BRANCH

The branch organized a civic lecture "Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and Fukushima – Exposure to radiation and nuclear plant accident" on July 10. Prof. Sawada delivered a lecture on internal exposure to radiation, Dr. Taki on the technically immature structure of nuclear plant, and Prof. Ichikawa on nuclear power policy.

FUKUOKA BRANCH

On July 24 the branch held the 2nd symposium of nuclear power plant problem "Alarm lessoned from Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant accident and Genkai nuclear plant". Three issues were raised. (a) Prof. Nagayama (medical school, Kyushu Univ.): "Keep family from radioactive contamination in foods"; (b) Prof. Toyoshima (physicist, Saga Univ.): "Is Genkai No.1 reactor safe?"; (c) Dr. Okamoto (Emeritus Prof., Kyushu Inst. Technology): "Was not Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant destroyed by the earthquake".

OKINAWA BRANCH

On August 10 at Ryukyu University the branch held a branch lecture with the title "Casualty caused by the nuclear plant accident and internal exposure of radiation", where Dr. Yagasaki (physicist, Emeritus Prof., Ryukyu Univ.) delivered a lecture "Danger of internal exposure – Action of radial ray and a critique of ICRP".

ARTICLES OF "JOURNAL OF JAPANESE SCIENTISTS"

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